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South Union Messenger (November 1974)

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The South Union Messenger

Vol. 3, No. 2

November, 1974

AN APOLOGY is due for the late arrival of the September Messenger. But it is hoped that all the good news contained herein will compensate for the overdue issue.

The 1824 Centre House and the 1830 (?) Preservatory are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, making South Union eligible for matching restoration funds. Also, the Kentucky Heritage Commission has recommended to the Department of the Interior that Shakertown at South Union be nominated as a national historic district.

The September 1974 catalog of "Shaker Architectural Records," published by the Historic Building Survey, carries a section on the South Union buildings. Included in the special HABS exhibit at the Shaker Bicentennial Meeting in Cleveland were South Union photographs.

THE SOUTH UNION FESTIVAL CHORUS

At the Friday night Cleveland program members of the Chorus, under the direction of Mrs. Ruth Morris, received a standing ovation for their presentation of Shaker songs and dances. The sweetest praise of all came from the three Canterbury sisters, who were heard to say, "They have the spirit. We knew South Union would do it right."

Following the program, the singers were made doubly happy by being photographed with the Shaker sisters and having their programs autographed by them. As one girl said, "I have spent eleven summers acting a Shaker. Now, I've met three real ones."



The start of the all-night ride back to Kentucky was delayed more than an hour by members of the audience who wanted to meet and compliment the thirty-four singers and the seven adults who accompanied them.

The chorus' participation on the national program was proposed by Mrs. Amy Bess Miller, president of Hancock Shaker Village and trustee of South Union, and Mr. Harry L. Jackson, Cleveland, a director of the Western Reserve Historical Society. Both Mrs. Miller and Mr. Jackson attended the 1974 presentation of "Shakertown Revisited."

An invitation from the Shaker Heights Historical Society to return to Cleveland next spring has been received by the chorus. Other invitations have also been received.

OPEN HOUSE



An Open House was held on October 28 in the South Union Centre House to honor the singers, their parents, the many businesses and individuals who underwrote the cost of the Cleveland trip, and all volunteer workers. Around 250 persons were present to enjoy a repeat of the Cleveland program, to have refreshments, and to see the newest museum acquisitions.

THE 1974 SEASON

The Open House brought to a close the 1974 season, which experienced an increased attendance over the first two seasons. However, South Union is never closed to groups that wish to schedule special visits.

Among regular season groups were 380 Homemakers of the Mammoth Cave Region; the Cumberland Trace Chapter of the Daughters of the American Colonies; representatives of out-of-state AAA clubs and the Department of Kentucky Travel Information; a church group from Clinton County; folk-life classes from Vanderbilt and Middle Tennessee University; senior citizens from Drakesboro and BRADD; and boy scout troops from Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, and Louisiana.

A special Shaker Trail Badge, sponsored by Explorer Post 302, Bowling Green, can be earned by scouts who hike the trail which includes the historic sites of the Shaker Mill Dam and the Gasper River Meeting House and Cemetery.



FOUNDERS AND SPONSORS HONORED

The founders and sponsors who made possible the 1971 purchase of the present property were feted July 10, being invited to view the latest restoration work, to have dinner, and to attend a sneak preview of "Shakertown Revisited."

Also present were members of the local board and six South Union trustees: Dean Raymond Cravens, Bowling Green; Tom Helm and Russell Procter, Louisville; Jim Thomas, Pleasant Hill; Ray Pearson, Chicago; and Father Thomas O'Connor, St. Mark's.

Special recognition was accorded Granville Clark, retiring president. Presiding at the dinner was the new board president Russell Porter, Lewisburg.

RECENT DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM

White silk kerchief	Mrs. Stewart Williams Springfield, Tenn.
Shaker knitted lace	Mrs. Luther Davis Springfield, Tenn.
Iron kettle	Russell Procter Louisville
L & N South Union railroad stamp	Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Reeves Bowling Green
Yarn clock hanker	Ted Miles Wading River, New York
Industrial Shop vaccum cleaner	Fred and Allen Dunn Bloomington, Ind.
Lumber used for two display area doors	Lloyd Clausen Chicago, Illinois
Two South Union baskets	Mr. & Mrs. Karl Vick Auburn
Wooden pegs	Rev. Howard Stark Russellville
Wheat cutter	Ernie Ezell South Union
South Union cast iron stove	Mrs. T. B. Wilson Mr. Dee Barrow, Auburn
South Union raw silk	Mrs. Nina Thompson Franklin
Large air conditioner	Mr. & Mrs. Tom Helm Louisville
Maniken	J. C. Penny Store Hopkinsville
Two bulletin boards	Evadine Parker Bowling Green
Shaker tool box & tools	Earl Grey Rogers Auburn
Display case, mitred brick, & nails from 1854 wash house	St. Marks South Union
The Shaker publication <u>Mother Ann</u> by Blinn, Shaker doll bed	Harry L. Jackson Cleveland
A kitchen steam table	Joe Howlett Russellville

98 pieces of stainless steel
place settings

Anonymous

Wooden crochet and knitting
needles from South Union

Chuck Bogan
Franklin

Shaker Community Industries by
Andrews, a jack rack, 2 kettle
tilters, spoon holder, apple
butter stirrer, crane griddle

Ed Durrell
Berryville, Va.

Commercial box of screws

Dick Norberg
Rockford, Ill.

8 complete 5-piece place settings
of 1847 Rogers Bros. Silverplate

Mrs. Jack Mobley
Miss Jewell Eubank
Franklin

The 1922 South Union sale catalog

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Tutino
Bowling Green

Money contributions have been received from Mr. & Mrs. Gaston
Coke, Mr. & Mrs. Wyatt Ezell, and Mrs. Curry Hall, Auburn; Mr.
& Mrs. H. C. Peart, Miss Evadine Parker, and Miss Julia Neal,
Bowling Green; the Cumberland Trace Chapter of the Daughters
of the American Colonies, and \$500 from an anonymous friend.

TRANSPORTATION NEEDS MET

When it was time to haul borrowed chairs and tables for
the festival, to transport a large art exhibit from Hodgenville
to South Union, or to haul stone for the well house restoration,
Scotts' Mills, Ken Robbins, and John Turner supplied the needed
truck or station wagon with drivers. A big thank-you is in order.

MUSEUM RESTORATION

On the ground floor an additional exhibit room has been
opened and a temporary wall has been removed. The entire second
floor hall, with its impressive series of arches, has been opened.
Another lighted closet area for exhibits has been opened on both
the first and second floors.

Five windows have been restored with the original
small panes that had been saved. Gifts to restore more
windows have been received from Mrs. Ray Gail, Auburn,
and Mrs. Stewart Williams, Springfield, Tenn. The
windows will be in memory of Mrs. Gail's parents, Mr.
and Mrs. Charlie Tatum and Mrs. Williams' parents,
Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Harris. The Tatum and Harris
families were neighbors and friends of the South Union
Shakers.



Repairs have been made to the dormer windows, chimneys, and roof. On the west side of the Centre dwelling the small well house has been restored and the non-Shaker coal house has been torn down. Removal of the concrete flooring revealed the original stone walk.

The major exterior restoration is scheduled for early spring.

VISITING AUTHORS

The resources of the South Union Museum have been tapped recently by Shaker authorities who are preparing publications. Professor Encico Morelli and Antonio Ronin of Italy spent three days studying various Shaker designs. Professor John Kassay of California paid his second visit to make measured drawings of some South Union pieces. Coming to photograph baskets was Mr. Lew Larason of New Jersey, who is publishing a general study of baskets. Mrs. Wayne Wagner, Indiana, who is compiling a book on weaving, photographed the museum coverlets.

DELAYED PUBLICATION

The Shaker Image co-authored by Ray Pearson, Amy Bess Miller, and Julia Neal, which was announced for publication in June is now announced for December. The reprint of Neal: By Their Fruits, first announced for November has been re-scheduled for February.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Boone, George S.	Elkton
Dagen, Mr. & Mrs. Irvin	St. Louis
Eubank, Jewell	Franklin
Kassay, Prof. & Mrs. John	San Bruno, Calif.
Layman, Mr. & Mrs. Gene	Louisville
Roberts, Mrs. M. M.	Bowling Green
Rogers, Rev. & Mrs. Ben	Louisville
Shands, Rev. & Mrs. Al	Crestwood
Stamps, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. P.	Bowling Green
Tanner, Mr. & Mrs. John	Madison, Tenn.
Williams, Mrs. E. L.	Bowling Green
Wright, Mr. & Mrs. R. C.	Auburn



IN MEMORIAM

Sympathy is expressed to the families of three charter members of Shakertown at South Union: Mr. C. S. Adams, Auburn, Mr. Wells Covington, Louisville, and Mr. H. O. Price, Russellville. Mr. Covington's membership was the first one received at South Union.

BETTY CROCKER COUPONS NEEDED

Miss Evadine Parker, the No. 1 volunteer hostess in 1974, has initiated a drive to collect Betty Crocker coupons that come with General Mills products, such as mixes and cereals. The coupons can be used in securing stainless steel place settings needed for social occasions. Margaret Dickison, Auburn, was the first friend to mail in coupons to the Shaker Museum, South Union, Ky. 42283. Top Value and S & H stamps can also be converted into needed kitchen equipment.

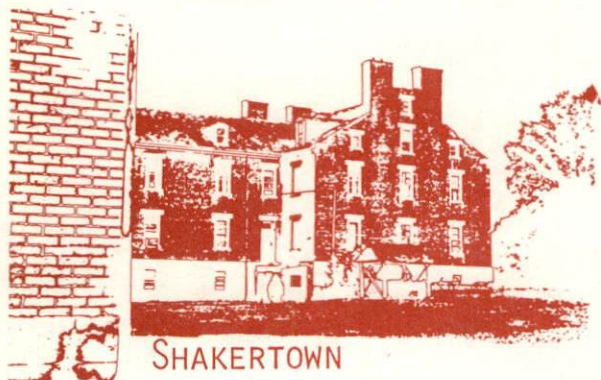
BOOTH AT EXPO

A note of appreciation is due Mrs. Bill Gaines, Mrs. Richard Barry, Alecia Reynolds, and Kathy Wheat, who staffed the South Union booth during the Expo program in Frankfort.

THE 1975 SEASON

Museum: Daily May 11 - Sept. 2
Weekends only in Sept. & October

Festival: July 10 - 19



SHAKERTOWN

At South Union, Kentucky 42283

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